

Application No.:09/667,186
Filed: September 21, 2000
Group Art Unit: 3726

b.) Remarks

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 5, and 20 have been amended in various particulars.

Applicant thanks examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 5, 20, and 21. These claims have been amended to no longer depend from rejected claims.

The only outstanding issues concern the rejection of the claims based on the prior art. The primary reference in each of these rejections is U.S. Pat. No. 6,273,483 to Bone. Specifically, claims 1, 2, 4, 9-12, 16-18, and 24 were rejected as being anticipated by the Bone patent. In a related rejection, claims 6, 8, and 22 were rejected as being unpatentable over the Bone patent in view of the Althaus patent and claims 7 and 23 were rejected in further view of the Kalina patent. Claims 13, 14, 25, and 26 were rejected as being obvious over the Bone patent. Finally, claims 15 and 19 were rejected in view of Bone and Novak patents. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of the independent claims requires multi axis position detection systems for the jaws. This is not shown by the Bone patent. The Bone "jaws" 10 are simply used for holding the workpiece, *i.e.*, applying force to hold the workpiece in a fixed position. Instead, in the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the jaws are used for manipulating or positioning the workpiece.

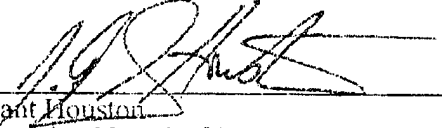
The Office action points to column 6, lines 44-50 as teaching the claimed position detection systems. Review of this portion of the Bone patent does not prove-out this assertion. No such position detection systems are disclosed. And each of the rejections relies on this interpretation of the Bone patent.

Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes that the rejections should be withdrawn.

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Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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